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place. The Pauline authorship of the second letter to the Thessalonians has been seriously questioned. Unfortunately Mr. Denney passes this over in silence. A popular commentary, it seems, ought to give its readers the best information about all such critical questions. O. J. T.

The Resultant Greek Testament, exhibiting the text in which the majority of modern editors are agreed, and containing the reading of Stephens (1550), Lachmann, Tregelles, Tischendorf, Lightfoot, Ellicott, Alford, Weiss, The Bâle Edition (1880), Westcott and Hort, and the Revision Committee. By RICHARD FRANCIS WEYMOUTH, D.Lit., with an introduction by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Worcester. Pp. 8+19+644. London: Elliot Stock. N. Y.: Funk & Wagnalls, 1892.

This work, first published in London in 1886, is now re-issued in a cheaper form and with the addition of a brief introduction by the Bishop of Worcester, but otherwise unchanged. The text is determined not by direct appeal to the ancient authorities, but by the votes—to some extent weighed rather than merely counted—of modern editors. At the top of each page the editors whose texts have been consulted are enumerated, and at the bottom of the page are shown the variations of any of these editors from the “majority” text as printed above. Thus the text exhibits what may in a qualified sense be called the consensus of modern editors, while the margin shows the extent to which the minority dissent from the majority. For that large class of readers of the Greek Testament who have no leisure to acquire a technical knowledge of the science and art of textual criticism, this is a very convenient and useful edition, perhaps the best now available. The American edition is evidently from duplicate plates of the English edition, but is slightly inferior to it in paper and press work. We are grateful to the American publishers for putting the book on the American market. But it is hardly fair for them to erase the date of Mr. Weymouth’s preface, and the words “cheap edition” from the title page, thus giving the uninformed reader the impression that he has before him an entirely new work. E. D. B.

The Early Narratives of Genesis. A Brief Introduction to the Study of Genesis i.–xi. By HERBERT EDWARD RYLE, B.D., Hulsean Professor of Divinity, Professorial Fellow of King’s College, Cambridge. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Pp. x+139. \$1.

There is no important subject in Biblical lines, the beginnings of which may not be found in Genesis i.–xi. It may fairly be said that one’s interpretation of these chapters determines his interpretation of the entire Old Testament. The battle between old and new opinions must be fought out here; for with these chapters every contribution of science, Assyriology and Biblical criticism has had to do.

The present volume consists of eight papers, based on a course of lectures delivered at Cambridge in 1890-91. The object of these papers “was to discuss the contents of the opening chapters of Genesis, in a simple and

untechnical style, with special reference to the modifications of view which the frank recognition of the claims of science and criticism seems to demand."

In accordance with this purpose the writer discusses the Creation, the Assyro-Babylonian Cosmogony and the Days of Creation, the Story of Paradise, the Story of Cain and Abel, the Antediluvian Patriarchs, the Story of the Flood, the Origin of Nations.

In the case of each subject the position is maintained (1) that the sacred writers obtained their materials from the common sources whence other nations also derived their materials, (2) that these narratives are constructed in accordance with the scientific or non-scientific idea of the earliest times; (3) that the religious conceptions presented were given the writers by the Holy Spirit. Taking this position, the writer freely and frankly acknowledges the existence of errors; and claims that the day has past when the traditional interpretation can be maintained.

It must be confessed that the book is unsatisfactory in that it presents the whole case in such brief form; and it may well be questioned whether views which depart so radically from those ordinarily held should be given even to the general public in so incomplete a form. Such a book will surely unsettle the minds of many who read it; and yet it does not furnish enough of a constructive theory with which to connect new views. It is startling to ordinary readers, the class for which the book is intended, to tell them that the Assyro-Babylonian cosmogony may have originated the Hebrew; and no real help is furnished them in the page or two devoted to the subject. The writer's point of view is best summed up in his own words: "The early traditions of the Semitic race were yoked to the service of the spiritual religion of Israel."

We are in this way brought face to face with the living question of the hour. The book gives, upon the whole, a good introduction to the subject. It is reverent in its spirit, and while it yields entirely too much to the demands of the extreme critics, it will satisfy the minds of some who are not able to accept the traditional positions. The materials upon which the work is based are accessible for the non-professional reader in Lenormant's *Beginnings of History*.

For two classes of persons, perhaps, it may serve a good purpose, viz.: those holding opinions upon the subject in hand which are not open to modification, who wish, however, to know what others may think about it, and those who for one reason or another have been compelled to give up more conservative positions and are wandering about in search of something more satisfactory.

W. R. H.

Pseudepigrapha: an Account of certain Apocryphal Writings of the Jews and Early Christians. By the Rev. WILLIAM J. DEANE, M.A. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1891. 7s. 6d.

The centuries between Malachi and John the Baptist are commonly regarded as "centuries of silence." So far as regards actual prophecy this